

Serial No. 09/750174

- 14 -

Art Unit: 2667

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 28 – 30 have been amended. Claims 1 – 30 are currently pending in this Application. The Applicant respectfully acknowledges the allowance of claims 6 – 27. Reconsideration and further examination of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Specification

Multiple dependent claims 28 – 30 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form. Claims 28 – 30 have been amended to clearly state the alternative form. It is therefore respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite because the term “edge policy enforcement” had no antecedent basis. The claim has been amended to replace “edge policy enforcement” with “policy enforcement”. It is therefore respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Donovan (US patent no. 6,366,577). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants’ independent claim 1 sets forth:

“A method comprising: sending a first message from a first party to a second party via a first policy enforcement device, said first message carrying a resource reservation request for communication from said first party to said second party, said first policy enforcement device connecting to a network; sending a second message from said second party to said first party via a second policy enforcement

Serial No. 09/750174

- 15 -

Art Unit: 2667

device, said second message acknowledging the first message, said second message carrying a resource reservation request for communication from said second party to said first party, said second policy enforcement device connecting to a network; and sending a third message from said first party to said second party, said third message acknowledging said second message."

The Applicants thus provide end-to-end two-way resource reservation through a single three-way handshake. The second message not only acknowledges the first message, but also carries a resource reservation request for communication from the second party to the first party.

In contrast, Donovan sets forth the prior art method of resource reservation using RSVP, as described in the Applicants' background. Resource reservation is first established in one direction via a 3-way handshake. It is then established in the opposite direction via a 3-way handshake. (See Donovan Col. 8 lines 6 – 23.) The Office Action cites Figure 8B of Donovan; however, it should be noted that Figure 8B established QoS in only one direction. (Col. 11 lines 20 – 21.) Donovan thus fails to teach or suggest the Applicants' claimed method including the step of sending a second message from said second party to said first party via a second policy enforcement device, said second message acknowledging the first message, said second message carrying a resource reservation request for communication from said second party to said first party. The Applicants therefore respectfully assert that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 4 are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. However, claim 3 is believed allowable for the reasons set forth with regard to claim 1.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Serial No. 09/750174

- 16 -

Art Unit: 2667

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date

Mary Steubing
Mary Steubing Reg. No. 37,946
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Steubing McGuinness & Manaras LLP
125 Nagog Park Drive
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-6664

Docket No. 120-116
Dd: 9/22/2004